

Message Text

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20

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

/058 W

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R 091618Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9131

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3700

TUNIS FOR SENATOR PERCY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, MO, AG

SUBJECT: MOROCCAN-ALGERIAN PROPAGANDA ATTACKS

1. DURING SENATOR PERCY'S PRIVATE VISIT TO MOROCCO JULY 3-6, HE FOUND THAT INVECTIVE AGAINST ALGERIA WAS A CONSTANT THEME IN CONVERSATIONS WITH GOM OFFICIALS. MINISTER OF INFORMATION TAIBI BENHIMA IN A LONG CONVERSATION DESCRIBED THE TWO HOURS OF DAILY BROADCASTING BEAMED INTO MOROCCO FROM ALGERIA ATTACKING MOROCCAN LEADERSHIP AND INSTITUTIONS. MOROCCO IN RETALIATION BROADCASTS TO ALGERIA UNFAVORABLE COMPARISONS OF LIFE IN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN SUCH FIELDS AS POLITICAL FREEDOMS AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS. SENATOR OBSERVED THAT SUCH BROADCASTS CONTRIBUTED TO TENSIONS AND INCREASED PRESSURES FOR SPENDING ON ARMS BY BOTH COUNTRIES, WITH RESULTANT MOUNTING DEPENDENCE OF ALGERIA ON THE USSR. WHEN SENATOR ASKED BENHIMA WHETHER MOROCCO WOULD CEASE INJURIOUS BROADCASTS IF ALGERIA DID SO, BENHIMA REPLIED, "IN AN INSTANT."

2. SENATOR BELIEVES THIS MAY PROVIDE AN OPENING TO INQUIRE WHETHER ALGERIA HAS A SIMILAR INTEREST. HE WOULD
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BE HAPPY TO DO SO DIRECTLY WITH BOUTEFLIKA IN ALGIERS

OR NEW YORK, OR TO FOLLOW ANY SUGGESTION OF THE DEPARTMENT.

3. SENATOR WILL BE IN TUNIS UNTIL JULY 17, AFTER WHICH
HE PLANS TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON.
ANDERSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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